

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 stand finally rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Boyce et al, (U.S. 4,284,542).

Before addressing the outstanding prior art rejection, applicants' disagree with the examiner position set forth in numbered paragraph 9 (page 3), of the Office action that the ionomer resin claimed is not positively recited in claim 1, and thus that the language "up to about" reads on a minimum amount of zero.

Claim 1 is not directed to an adhesive comprising a thermoplastic resin, a tackifying resin and up to about 40 wt of an ionomers resin. Rather, claim 1 is directed to and to an adhesive comprising a thermoplastic resin, a tackifying resin and an ionomer resin, with the further limitation that the ionomer resin component cannot be present in amounts that exceed about 40 wt % (i.e., the ionomer resin is present in amounts of up to about 40 wt %). The ionomer resin component is a positively recited required component of claim 1.

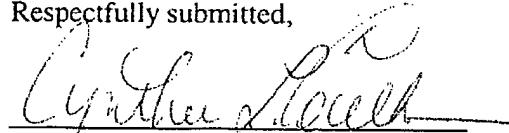
Claims 1-6 are not obvious over Boyce. Boyce discloses ionomer-based hot melt adhesives and sealant compositions that have improved high temperature viscosity when it contains ammonium phosphate. The Boyce compositions find use as glass sealants or adhesives for automobile windows. Preferably, the compositions also contain an inorganic filler, such as carbon black. Various reinforcing agents may also be used. The inclusion of a polystyrene resin among the listed reinforcing agents would not render obvious applicants' adhesive comprising a thermoplastic elastomer, a tackifier, and an ionomer. There is not suggestion of the use of styrene-isoprene-styrene, styrene-b-ethylene/butylene-b-styrene, styrene-butadiene-styrene or

blends thereof with ionomers and tackifying resins as required in claim 5.

Applicants' submit that the claimed invention is not obvious over the disclosure of Boyce
Withdrawal is requested.

Early and favorable action is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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